Everything leads me to think we have reached the moment for concluding peace, and we must do so. If, contrary to my expectations, the negotiations went off, I should be very embarrassed as to what to do next.

9th. All goes well.

(To the Most Serene Doge of Venice.) All the Venetian mainland is in arms. The watchword of the peasants you have armed is: "Death to the French!" Is it your belief that because I am in the centre of Germany I am unable to compel due respect for the greatest Power in the world ? Do you think the legions of Italy will quietly submit to the massacres you have stirred up ? The blood of my comrades shall be avenged. I send you this letter by my first aide-de-camp. War or peace! We are not living in the days of Charles VIII!

(This) letter is for Junot to take to Venice, and to get answered within 24 hours. It would be dangerous to giv*. time for the Venetian troops to assemble.

16th, Leoben:

(To the Directoire.) I am sending you by Adjutant-General Leclerc this dispatch on the negotiations. Pray send him back at once. All the officers I send to Paris stay there too long; they spend their money, and kill themselves with fast living.

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